

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9972
WHITEHOUSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00859

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

FOR AMBASSADOR BOWDLER FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF
SUBJ: CONVERSATIONS WITH SAG

1. THANKS FOR AN EXCELLENT ANALYSIS OF THE SALISBURY
AGREEMENT CAPE TOWN 445). AS USUAL IT GETS TO THE
HEART OF THE ISSUE.

2. EVENTS ARE MOVING RATHER RAPIDLY. I STILL THINK SAG IS
IMPORTANT KEY IN ANY REGIONAL PROGRESS AND WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR ESTIMATE OF ANY POTENTIAL INTEREST ON THEIR PART.
MCHENRY AND I WILL POSSIBLY ATTEND LUSAKA MEETING OF UN
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COUNCIL ON NAMIBIA MARCH 20-25. WE COULD GAIN SWAPO
AGREEMENT ON WESTERN 5 PROPOSALS. FRONTLINE AND PATRIOTIC
FRONT ARE NOW SENSING THE URGENCY OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN
SITUATION AND REALIZE THE RELATIONSHIP OF RHODESIA WITH
NAMIBIA DECISIONS IN THE SAG THINKING. IS THERE ANY
WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS COOPERATION WITH WEST AND FRONTLINE
ON ENDING THE VIOLENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA UNDER UN

PEACEKEEPING AND WESTERN AUSPICES, OR IS THE SAG CONFIDENT THAT IT CAN STAND ALONE AGAINST CONTINUED SOVIET-AIDED GUERRILLAS AND POSSIBLY INCREASING DECLINE OF WESTERN ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT.

3. SOUTH AFRICA IS NOW THE LIBERAL CAUSE CELEBRE IN THE WEST, JUST AS VIET NAM WAS IN THE U.S. AND ALGERIA WAS IN FRANCE. IT WON'T GO AWAY UNDER ANY ADMINISTRATION. IF THERE IS ANY WILLINGNESS TO RE-OPEN DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S., WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THEIR RESPONSE TO DON AND ME. THE ADVANTAGE TO THE U.S. IS THAT WE ARE MORE ABLE TO ENTER DIALOGUE AND AVOID DOMESTIC RISK OF COMPROMISE CHARGES. DISCUSSIONS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO INCLUDE OUR UNDERSTANDING AND RELATIONSHIP TO THEIR DOMESTIC SITUATION AND SHOULD POSSIBLY ALSO INVOLVE MULDER AS WELL AS BOTHA. INFORMAL, RELAXED SETTING MUCH BETTER, AND UNANNOUNCED, THOUGH NOT SECRET, MEETINGS PREFERRED.

3. THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT CAN PRODUCE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION. POSSIBLY THE SAG WOULD BRING CHANGE IN NAMIBIA WITHOUT MUCH TROUBLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE DUE TO SWAPO'S WEAKENED CONDITION, BUT IT WOULD ALWAYS REMAIN A POTENTIAL ENTRY POINT FOR EXTRA AFRICAN INTERVENTION. THE OPPORTUNITY OF MOVING SOUTHERN AFRICA FORWARD IN A PEACEFUL WAY IS A POSSIBILITY FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, HOWEVER SOME DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BEGIN
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SOON.

4. SECRETARY VANCE HAS HAD SOME INTERESTING CONVERSATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN. A MOOD IS GROWING THERE WHICH MAY BEGIN TO REACH THE GOVERNMENT AT SOME POINT. IT MAY BE THAT WE SHOULD JUST BE PATIENT. I WOULD NOT WANT THEM TO THINK THAT OUR SITUATION IS SO DESPERATE THAT WE NEED THEIR SUPPORT AT ANY COST. THE DEATH OF SOBUKWE AND THE DETENTION OF DON MATTERA MAKE ME VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TIME.

5. I REALLY APPRECIATE THE PERSONAL INTEREST THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN IN THE LIVES AND PERSONAL TROUBLES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE. VERY FEW POSTS ARE SO DEMANDING, AND I'M SURE THAT WE HAVE HAD VERY FEW AMBASSADORS WHO SERVED SO WELL OR DELIVERED SO MANY DIFFICULT TALKING POINTS AND STILL MAINTAINED EVERYONE'S RESPECT AND ADMIRATION. YOUNG

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